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ABSTRACT

The first meeting of the Coalition of Adult Education Organizations (CAEO) was held in Syracuse in 1964 as a Conference of Adult Education Organizations. Its purpose was to obtain input to help determine the development of the Library of Continuing Education (LCE). Presidents, other officers or leaders of 17 organizations in Canada and the United States and representatives of UNESCO and International Congress of University Adult Education attended. The conference was successful and participants continued to meet. Meetings became forums or places where issues of adult and continuing education were identified and discussed. When the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) was being established, the CAEO requested that a Clearinghouse on Adult Education be designated and that it be set up at Syracuse University where the LCE was located. Action was taken by ERIC and the clearinghouse was established at Syracuse University. The name of CAEO changed over the years; in early September 1969, it became the Coalition of Adult Education Organizations. At the Galaxy Conference, the role of CAEO was formalized; a constitution and by-laws were developed. A major policy statement was also developed that reflected a broad and comprehensive vision of adult and continuing education in the United States. A strong relationship continues with the LCE. Current members of CAEO have voted to have Syracuse University as the repository for their archives. CAEO papers and materials are in the Adult Education Collection at Syracuse University. (YLB)

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SOME OBSERVATIONS - EARLY YEARS OF COMMITTEE/COALITION OF ADULT EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS (CAEO)

Alexander N. Charters

June 1992

MSS 43

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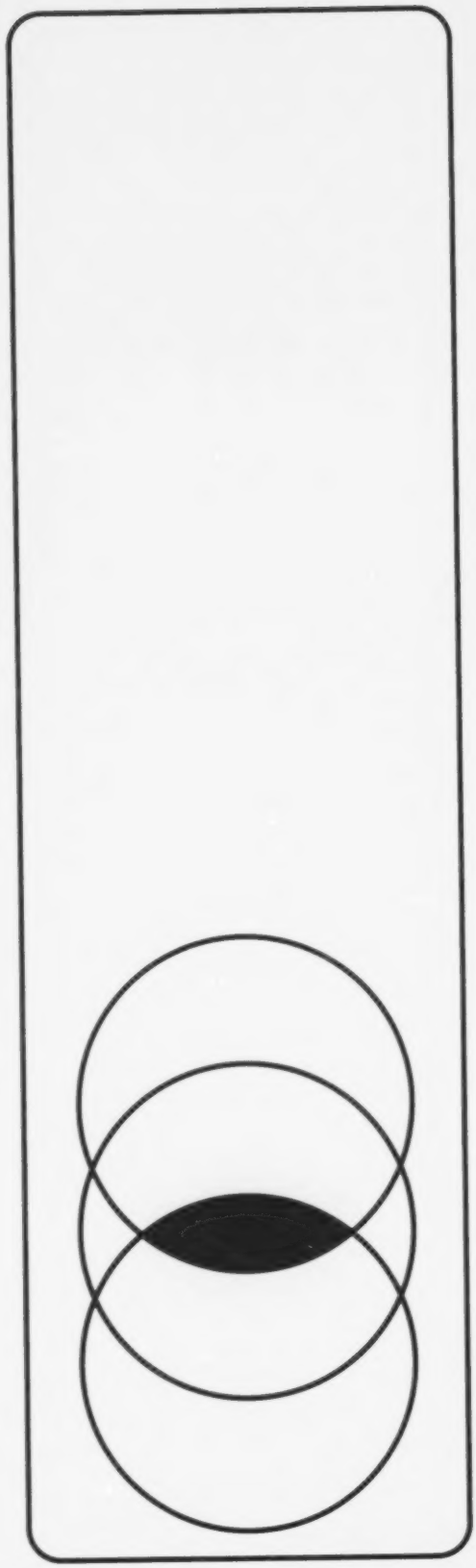

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SOME OBSERVATIONS - EARLY YEARS

COMMITTEE/COALITION OF ADULT EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS (CAEO)

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MSS 43

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June 1992

SOME OBSERVATIONS - EARLY YEARS OF CAEO

Founded 1964 - Incorporated 1973

Alexander N. Charters

Many of the educators of adults who are in leadership and service roles of the Coalition of Adult Education Organizations (CAEO) are relative newcomers to the Organization and in many cases to the field of Adult Education. Accordingly, it may be useful to highlight some of the activities of the early years of CAEO.

After Galaxy I wrote a Report on the 1969 Galaxy Conference of Adult Education Organizations. It provides the basis for this statement. I must note, because of the many changes in leadership, there may be some inconsistencies. None of them are significant but they may be confusing to some persons.

This statement is to record the early history. It is also to express appreciation to the scores of educators of adults who contributed their time, service and leadership on behalf of CAEO. In this way they have assisted in the enhancement of the field of Adult Education.

The member organizations of CAEO are to be commended for their commitment to the field of Adult Education in their particular arena of endeavor nationally and internationally.

1. The first meeting was held in Syracuse on November 20-22, 1964 as a Conference of Adult Education Organizations (CAEO). Syracuse University had received a grant of $249,000 from the Office of Education to develop a model library of Adult

Education. The purpose of the Conference was to obtain input to help determine the development of the Library of Continuing Education (LCE). I phoned the President, head or representative of each Organization requesting attendance at the Conference. I think that all invitees came or were represented. Presidents, other officers or leaders from 17 Organizations in Canada and the United States, as well as representatives of UNESCO and International Congress of University Adult Education (ICUAE) attended. The following is a list of Organizations:

United States

Adult Education Association (AEA)
American Library Association (ALA)
Association of State University and Land Grant Colleges (ASULGC)
Association of University Evening Colleges (AUEC)
Center for the Study of Liberal Education for Adults (CSLEA)
Commission of Professors (CPAE)
National Association of Public School Adult Educators (NAPSAE)
National University Extension Association (NUEA)
University Council of Education for Public Responsibility (UCEPR)
Association of Field Services in Teacher Education (AFSTE)
Library of Continuing Education (LCE)

Canada

Canadian Association for Adult Education (CAAE)
Canadian Association of Directors of Education Summer (CADESS)
Institute Canadien d'Education des Adultes (ICEA)

International

International Congress of University Adult Education (ICUAE)
United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (p. 41)*

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*Unless otherwise indicated, all quotes and references are from Report on the 1969 Galaxy Conference of Adult Education Organizations, A. N. Charters, Conference Chairman. Landmarks and New Horizons in Continuing Education, 1. Syracuse: SUPCE, 1971. (Only page numbers are given, e.g., [p. 41]).

Alexander N. Charters was Chair and Betty J. Vaughn, Director of Library of Continuing Education, was Secretary.

The enthusiastic response to the call and the excellence of discussion were at least partly due to the substantive nature of the topic. This assistance and the contribution over the years by CAEO and its members were significant in developing the Adult Education Collection at Syracuse University.

2. The Conference was successful and it was agreed that the participants would continue to meet. Sometimes the meetings were held at the time of other meetings and sometimes on their own. The Chair and Secretary rotated among the member Organizations, often in alphabetical order (pp. 39-40). There were no dues or fees. Expenses of participants were paid by participants although much of the secretarial services was borne by Syracuse University. Some 18 meetings were held before the Galaxy Conference. Over the years, like all the other officers and Committee Chairs, Mrs. Dorothy Wilson generously acted as Attorney without fees or expenses, for the legal matters pertaining to CAEO.

The meetings of CAEO continued and became forums or places where issues of Adult and Continuing Education were identified and discussed. The meetings of CAEO were important in that they gave some sense of unity to the field of Adult Education in the United States.

3. At a meeting of CAEO in Washington, December 13, 1967, it was reported that Educational Resources Informational Center (ERIC) was being established. By resolute action, CAEO in 1967 requested that a Clearinghouse on Adult Education be designated

by ERIC and that it be set up at Syracuse University where the Library of Continuing Education (LCE) was located. Action was taken by ERIC and a Clearinghouse was established at Syracuse University as a continuation of the grant from the Office of Education. (See Item 1.) It was significant because the Clearinghouse of Adult Education was the result of a concerted effort - through CAEO - of most of the strong organizations in Adult Education.

The contribution of CAEO in initiating the Clearinghouse on Adult Education was also significant because ERIC became a major resource in the enhancement of the field of Adult Education in the United States.

4. The name or title of CAEO changed over the years, as indicated below:

Conference of Associations of Adult Education, November, 1964
Meeting of Adult Education Organizations, Jamuary, 1965
Ad Hoc Committee of Adult Education Organizations, March, 1966
Committee of Adult Education Organizations, April, 1967
Coalition of Adult Education Organizations, September, 1969

The name was changed to Coalition of Adult Education Organizations at a meeting held in early September 1969. I was in a hospital when I was phoned to inform me about the meeting and that the name was changed from Committee to Coalition. I did not receive minutes of the meeting.

The title Coalition was used at the Wingspread Conference and in the Imperatives for Action, e.g., "(1) That the role of the Coalition of Adult Education Organizations be formalized

and strengthened. (2) That the Coalition in turn give leadership to the establishment of a political action unit with responsibility for influencing legislation with respect to the following Imperatives" (p. 51). The Imperatives were approved at a general session of the Galaxy Conference. There was no action to create a new organization, only to formalize the existing one, i.e., Coalition of Adult Education Organizations.

However the change of name did not reach all the officers and members, i.e., "It was moved that the Committee of Adult Education Organizations on January 28, 1970 and at the conclusion of business the Committee of Adult Education Organizations would be dissolved" (p. 4). The Committee could not be dissolved because it no longer existed under that name.

However these matters are probably not of any concern. ". . . it was the same group of people and the same organizations which were committed to the development of the mission. The changes in title and structure are therefore viewed as a development and implementation of an idea rather than a series of episodic developments. Continuity and progress are characteristics of the movement" (p. 4).

5. In the early days of CAEO there was an interest in sharing experiences and in cooperating to develop LCE and to establish the ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult Education. It should be remembered however that many of the members were in the throes of getting established or rejuvenated after World War II. Accordingly they were in many ways trying to define their turf and mission.

The statement adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee of Adult Education Organizations reflects the hesitation to get too structured. Such terms appear: "ad hoc; when joint action is taken on behalf of one or more members of the Committee," "the members who participate in the action may be designated by name and the members who do not participate may be omitted from the list," "the group will assess no dues," "the group will not assume expense for any activity," "a chairman shall be designated by consensus at each meeting for the next meeting of the group," and "the chairman shall not preside over more than two successive meetings" (pp. 31-32).

Early in its development there was consensus that CAEO should not assess any dues and thus not be competing with its member institutions. Considerable expense was paid by the institutions of the Chairs and Secretaries.

As time went along, relationships improved and passed through various stages. By the time of the Galaxy Conference, cooperation and trust were significantly evident. The voters for action on Imperatives for Action at Galaxy were not organizations but individuals in General Session. The vote was unanimous.

6. One of the resolutions in the Imperatives was "that the role of the Coalition of Adult Education Organizations be formalized and strengthened." A Constitution and by-Laws were developed. "Ratification by six of the current members of the Committee of Adult Education Organizations on or before December 31, 1970 shall activate this Constitution" (p. 33).

At least six members did ratify the Constitution.

CAEO was incorporated in the District of Columbia, July 16, 1973.

It qualified as a 501(c) organization under the Internal Revenue Code, August 30, 1974. This status had the advantage of permitting unlimited attempts to influence legislation but was coupled with the disadvantage of disallowing charitable contributions that were deductible for income, gift and estate tax purposes.

7. The initial members of CAEO who attended the Conference are listed (see Item 1). The following became active and attended two or more meetings (p. 41):

American Association of Junior Colleges (AAJC)
American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
American Vocational Association (AVA)
Council of National Organizations for Adult Education (CNO-AE)
National Association of Ed. Broadcasters (NAEB)
National Council for the Study of Community Education (NCSCE)
National Education Television (NET)
National Home Study Council (NHSC)
Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO)
Society for Public Health Educators (SOPHE)
United States Office of Education (OEO)

The Canadian associations expressed considerable interest in the first years but discontinued participation when it appeared that CAEO was to be U.S. focused. Likewise UNESCO and ICUAE continued interest but became inactive.

It is recalled that CAEO was called to discuss ways in which LCE could become a resource to members of Adult and Continuing Education organizations. As it developed, it also changed its name to Syracuse University Resources for Educators of Adults (SUREA), and Syracuse University Publications in Continuing Education (SUPCE). It is now called the Adult Education

Collection and is a part of the George Arents Library of Syracuse University. It continues as a member of CAEO perhaps through "grandfather/mother" status.

It is evident that CAEO has developed by the active participation of most of the strong Adult and Continuing Education organizations in U.S. CAEO and its members have also been engaged in Adult and Continuing Education in the international field.

8. At the second meeting of CAEO, January 23-24, 1965, there was discussion of the idea of "clustering the conferences of a number of national Adult Education organizations in one city." At each subsequent meeting there was discussion and in October 12-13, 1966 CAEO appointed "Alexander Charters, Vice President for Continuing Education, Syracuse University, to convene a meeting of representative organizations in Chicago in mid-January, re the Galaxy Conference in 1969" (p. 6). The Galaxy Conference was scheduled for Chicago but on very short notice, the Hotel cancelled the reservations. Fortunately the Sheraton-Park and Shoreham Hotels in Washington, DC were able to accommodate the Conference. CAEO approved the Conference to be held December 6-11, 1969. The name of the 1969 Galaxy Conference of Adult Education Organizations evolved and was finally accepted.

The Central Planning Committee at the time of the Galaxy Conference was:

General Chairman:	Alexander N. Charters
Program Chairman:	Russell F. W. Smith
Resolutions:	Ernest E. McMahon
Public Relations:	Willard L. Thompson
Budget and Finance:	Raymond Witte

Executive Secretaries of CAEO members:	Robert Luke James Dorland Robert Mitchell Eugene Johnson Robert Sharer
Conference Staff:	Keith Glancy

The Committee Chairmen who made up the Central Planning Group were appointed by CAEO.

CAEO invited 26 leaders who represented a cross section of American life to serve as an Advisory Committee to the Galaxy Conference (see Attachment A). Letters of invitation were mailed and with only a couple of exceptions, accepted. Following the Conference each member was sent a letter reviewing the Conference and with thanks for participation. The appointment of this Committee helped to promote the field of Adult and Continuing Education in general.

As the Planning Committee for the Galaxy Conference proceeded, it was necessary for each of the participating organizations to change the time and place of their annual meeting. In all, some 20 organizations participated by holding full annual conferences, board meetings or executive committee meetings. There were over 2,500 registered participants and observers.

It was a reflection of the cooperative spirit that developed during the planning of the Conference. It also reflects the expanding vision of individuals and organizations to see beyond themselves to the vast and comprehensive field of Adult and Continuing Education.

During the Conference, the Secretary of State, The Honorable William P. Rogers, had returned from the Middle East. It was

arranged that he would report to the nation on national television General Sessions of the Galaxy Conference. Five General Sessions had been scheduled and a sixth one was added for the presentation during the Conference by the Secretary of State. It certainly gave visibility to Adult and Continuing Education.

9. As the planning proceeded, a Public Relations Committee was appointed. CAEO designated Dr. William Thompson, University of Minnesota, as Chair. He enlisted the support of Dr. Arthur Fleming, President of Macalester College, to plan the Conference which The Johnson Wax Foundation supported at Wingspread, November 13-15, 1969. Forty-eight distinguished men and women were invited. (See Attachment B.) Included were national and international leaders in education and other fields, as well as leading educators of adults who were invited by CAEO to be participants. At this Conference, the Imperatives for Action was developed.

It was the consensus at Wingspread that the Imperatives should be presented to the total assembled body of the Galaxy Conference. Copies of the Imperatives for Action were widely distributed during the Conference.

Accordingly, at a General Session presided over by Alexander N. Charters, Chair of the Galaxy Conference Committee, Dr. Arthur Fleming, Chair of the Wingspread Conference, presented the Imperatives for Action. The Honorable G. Mennen Williams made the motion to adopt. Ms. Olivia Stokes, National Council of Churches, Dr. Hamilton Stillwell, President of CAEO, and Mr.

James Yates, President of the U.S. Association of Evening College Students, seconded the motion.

The Conference was the first time that national leaders conferred with educators of adults to develop a major policy statement. The policy was also significant because it reflects a broad and comprehensive vision of Adult and Continuing Education in the United States.

10. The second part of the Resolution which was passed unanimously by the individuals in General Session, read as follows:

> 2. That the Coalition in turn give leadership to the establishment of a political action unit with responsibility for influencing legislation with regard to the following imperatives. (p. 51)

It called for a political or otherwise action thrust. It was discussed with the Chair and other members of CAEO. It was the consensus that CAEO would not become an action body. Accordingly, a group formed the Adult Education Action Council and had it incorporated in the District of Columbia. The Council became active but some members of the CAEO seemed to feel that it was somewhat competitive. It might also become unnecessary if CAEO became more active. Rather than cause any rift, the Council was disbanded and the funds given to CAEO. It is noted, however, that CAEO has not exerted any particular political action.

11. The publicity to CAEO and to Adult and Continuing Education was very extensive before and during Galaxy. It has been mentioned that the distinguished participants at the Wingspread Conference and members of the Advisory Committee gave credibility to CAEO and to the field of Adult and Continuing Education.

Some excerpts from the Report of the Public Relations Committee give an indication of extent and quality of the activities: "In 1967, a news release went out to nearly one thousand education reporters and editors, and other news media personnel"; "....personal visits to editors of major magazines, networks, newspapers, etc. Some of the media contacted personally includes: Saturday Review, Time, Life, Look, Newsweek, The New York Times -- (over 30)"; "Mailing of a news release to more than eight hundred education writers and editors"; "The printing, design and mailing of press kits to three hundred selected education writers, editors, broadcasters, etc."; "The mailing of two additional releases to the education writers' list"; "Letters to a selected list of free lance writers who had indicated an interest in adult and continuing education"; "Personal letters to the editors of all newspapers publishing Sunday magazines in the United States"; "Letters to deans and directors in universities and colleges through the country requesting they contact their news representatives and ask they make contact with the local papers"; "Personal letters (followed by phone calls in many instances) to the publishers of all major newspapers, and general managers of all radio stations and television stations along the Boston-Washington megalopolis"; "The pressroom operation . . . included the obtaining of advance copies of speeches (there were ninety-one major speakers at the Conference), the preparation of news releases, setting up of news conferences, and assisting of representatives of the media" (pp. 21-22).

Voice of America taped individuals and sessions for two days. ". . . and a note about having got Governor Rockefeller to declare an Adult Education week in conjunction with Galaxy" (p. 14).

The media coverage and other events are probably the most extensive and comprehensive of any Adult Education event.

12. The stated purpose of the initial CAEO was to help the LCE to develop in terms of $248,000 grant from the Office of Education. Some 28 years later, it is evident that a strong relationship has developed.

Current members of CAEO have voted to have Syracuse University as the repository for their archives. The papers and materials of CAEO are also in the Adult Education Collection at Syracuse University.

Among the many contributions of CAEO has been to maintain a strong commitment to the preservation of archival and historical materials. These resources are accessible for research and study by educators of adults and thus enhance the field of Adult and Continuing Education nationally and internationally.

13. In addition to the contributions of CAEO mentioned above there were presentations and discussions at each of the meetings. An analysis of the members in 1964 indicates that there were 33 different topics, excluding the Galaxy, on the agenda. These were indeed timely and important items of concern to the member organizations.

As I have previously stated in many places, "The mission of adult education is to help adults acquire further control over their current circumstances and their future destinies." CAEO certainly continues to be a significant influence in supporting the achievement of this mission.

ATTACHMENT A

ADVISORY COMMITTEE 1969 GALAXY CONFERENCE

Arthur Flemming, Chairman, Macalester College
Ralph Bunche, United Nations
Norman Cousins, Saturday Review
Alvin C. Eurich, Academy of Educational Development
C. Scott Fletcher, Educational Television Stations
W. Averell Harriman, Department of State
Fred Harvey Harrington, University of Wisconsin
Vance Hartke, United States Senate
Samuel P. Hayes, Foreign Policy Association
Hubert H. Humphrey, Macalester College
Ralph Lowell, Lowell Institute
Robert McNair, Governor of South Carolina
Margaret Mead, American Museum of Natural History
George Meany, AFL-CIO
Lloyd Meeds, United States Congress
Malcolm Moos, University of Minnesota
Mrs. Richard M. Nixon, The White House
Frank Pace, Jr., Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Roman C. Pucinski, United States Congress
Eugene Rabinowitch, State University of New York
Walter P. Reuther, International Union, UAW
Terry Sanford, Attorney at Law
Earl Warren, Supreme Court
Logan Wilson, American Council on Education
O. Meredith Wilson, Center for Advanced Study of Behavioral Sciences
Ralph W. Yarborough, United States Senate
(p. 58).

ATTACHMENT B

WINGSPREAD CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

ARTHUR FLEMMING -- Chairman
President
Macalester College

LEONARD P. ARDES
National Conference of
Christians and Jews

GEORGE A. BEERE
Brooklyn Center of
St. John's University

ROBERT J. BLAKELY
Center for Continuing Education
Syracuse University

RALPH H. BOATMAN
School of Public Health
The University of North Carolina

GEORGE L. BRANDON
American Vocational Association,
Incorporated

ALEXANDER N. CHARTERS
Vice President
Syracuse University

JOHN B. CLAAR
Cooperative Extension Service
University of Illinois

J. M. CORNELSON
Associate Commissioner for Adult
Vocational and Library Programs
U. S. Office of Education

J. KENNETH CUMMISKEY
American Association of Junior
Colleges

WALTER G. DAVIS
Director of Education
AFL-CIO

JAMES DAY
President
National Educational Television

WALLACE EDGERTON
National Endowment for
the Humanities

W. TODD FURNISS
Commission on Academic Affairs
American Council on Education

WILLIAM G. HARLEY
National Association of
Educational Broadcasters

JAMES R. HARTLEY
University Extension
University of California at
Riverside

SAMUEL P. HAYES
President
Foreign Policy Association

JOHN B. HOLDEN
Graduate School
U. S. Department of Agriculture

CYRIL O. HOULE
University of Chicago

GLENN JENSEN
University of Wyoming

ROBERT E. KELTON
United States Association of
Evening Students

ROBERT KINSINGER
W. K. Kellogg Foundation

CHARLES J. LONGACRE
Newark State College

ROBERT LUKE
Division of Adult Education Services
National Education Association

HOWARD McCLUSKY
University of Michigan

CHARLES McDOUGALL
Federal Extension Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

ERNEST E. McMAHON
University Extension
Rutgers, The State University

DONALD R. McNEIL
Chancellor
University of Maine

J. KENNETH MULLIGAN
Bureau of Training
U. S. Civil Service Commission

KATHRYN OLIPHANT
Association of the Junior Leagues
of America

ROBERT J. PITCHELL
National University Extension
Association

JESSE D. RISING
Medical Center
University of Kansas

STANLEY C. ROBINSON
University Extension
University of Illinois

JEAN A. ROCKWELL
Adult Student Personnel
Association, Incorporated

WILLIAM C. ROGERS
World Affairs Center
University of Minnesota

DAVID E. SCHULZ
National Education Association

RUSSELL F. W. SMITH
School of Continuing Education
and Extension Services
New York University

O. GLENN STAHL
Bureau of Policies and Standards
U.S. Civil Service Commission

HAMILTON STILLWELL
Division of Urban Extension
Wayne State University

OLIVIA PEARL STOKES
National Council of Churches
of Christ

WILLARD L. THOMPSON
General Extension Division
and Summer Session
University of Minnesota

RALPH W. TYLER
Science Research Associates

JOHN R. VAN HORN
Training and Development
Department
Westinghouse Electric Corporation

CLYDE E. WEINHOLD
Bureau of Adult Education
New Jersey State Department
of Education

RUTH M. WHITE
Adult Services Division
American Library Association

THURMAN J. WHITE
Vice President
University of Oklahoma

The Hon. G. MENNEN WILLIAMS
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

RAYMOND P. WITTE
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Loyola University (New Orleans)

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